

# Voter Protections, Assistance

**Voters Needing Assistance**—If you need assistance at the polls because you are disabled or cannot read or write English, you have the right to receive assistance to cast a vote in every election. The person assisting can be a poll worker or someone you choose.

However, your employer or union representative cannot assist you. The person you choose must fill out an affidavit before assisting you to vote.

**Accessible Polls**—You have the right to a polling place that is accessible to a person with disabilities.

**Traveling Voting Boards**—If you are confined due to illness or disability, you have the right to vote absentee at your place of confinement before a traveling absentee voting board.

**Spoiled Ballots**—Your ballot is “spoiled” if you vote for too many candidates running for the same office or if you vote by mistake for a candidate for whom you did not intend to vote. If you spoil your ballot, you may return the spoiled ballot to a poll worker and receive another ballot in order to cast a vote in that election.

**Waiting at the Polls at Closing**—If you have begun the process of voting, or are waiting in the chute to begin the process of voting before the closing of the polls at 6 p.m., you have the right to cast a vote in that election.



## Contact Representative Austin

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# Know Your Rights!



## Information from Representative Terri Austin on Improvements to Indiana's Election Laws and Voting Procedures





# Can I Vote?

## In Indiana you have the right to vote in an election if:

You are a U.S. citizen;

You are a resident of Indiana;

You will be at least 18 years of age at the next general or municipal election;

You have lived in the precinct where you vote for at least 30 days before the election;

You are not currently in prison after being convicted of a crime; and

**You are registered to vote.**

For voter registration information in Madison County contact the Voter Registration Office  
16 E. 9th Street, Suite 208  
Anderson IN 46016

For voter registration information in Hamilton County contact the Voter Registration Office  
One Hamilton County Square  
Suite 106  
Noblesville IN 46060

# Legislature Passes Election Reforms

**In order to prevent** some of the election problems that other states have experienced in recent years, Governor Frank O'Bannon established a Bipartisan Task Force on Election Integrity during his term in office. That task force met during the summer of 2001 and was charged with studying voter registration systems, election dates, voting hours, and absentee and remote voting issues, among other items.

Recommendations from that task force have gradually been implemented through legislative changes enacted in 2002 and 2003. We continued those efforts during the most recent legislative session through Senate Bill 72.

**Senate Bill 72** contains restrictions on absentee voting which will now require that signatures on absentee ballots be compared to the voter's registration record before the ballot is accepted. It will also allow counties to prevent voter fraud by monitoring votes cast under a name that has been designated as inactive.

Senate Bill 72, which was ultimately signed into law, contains many other safeguards for our voting practices that should streamline the process and improve the efficiency and integrity of our voting systems.

**Senate Bill 86**, which has also been signed into law, will help with notations in poll lists. The new law requires that, after December 31, 2005, a poll list include an "Address Unchanged" box so that a voter whose address shown on the poll list has not changed may check the box instead of writing the voter's current address on the poll list.

# Procedures for Election Day Incorrect Voter Information

**If you are registered to vote but your name does not appear on the poll list**, you are still allowed to vote if one of the following fail-safe procedures applies to you:

✓ **Certificate of Error**—If your name does not appear on the poll list because of an error by the county, the county must issue a Certificate of Error before you are allowed to vote.

✓ **Written Affirmation**—If you were at one time registered in this precinct, but your name does not appear on the poll list now and you are willing to sign a written statement (or make an oral affirmation in the presence of the inspector or one of the judges) that you still live at the address in the precinct that county voter registration records show as your former address, then you may vote after making the statement or affirmation.

✓ **Receipt from Voter Registration**—If your name does not appear on the poll list but you have a receipt from a voter register application form indicating that you applied to register at a voter registration agency while the registration period was still open (before the last 29 days before the election) and the county voter registration office does not have any record of receiving the voter registration application, then you may vote after the information on your receipt is recorded on the poll list.

**If your name is on the poll list but the name or address on the poll list does not match your current name or address**, you may still qualify to vote if one of the following fail-safe procedures applies to you:

✓ **Moved within the precinct or name changed**—If your name is on the poll list but you have moved within the same precinct or your name has changed, you may vote if you sign the poll book with the new address or new name (example: married name, change of name due to divorce or adoption).

✓ **Moved more than 30 days before the election, but still live in the same county and congressional district**—If you moved more than 30 days before the election outside of the precinct to another precinct that is still in the same county and congressional district, you may vote at your old precinct one last time by signing an affidavit provided by local election officials or by making an oral affirmation of these facts in the presence of the precinct election board, and then proceed to vote.

✓ **Moved within the State of Indiana in the last 30**

**days before the election**—If you moved outside of the precinct to any other precinct in Indiana within the final 30 days before the election, you may vote at your old precinct one last time by signing an affidavit provided by local election officials.

✓ **Moved outside the State of Indiana in the last 30 days before a presidential election**—If you moved from an Indiana precinct to a new residence outside of Indiana and moved within the final 30 days before Election Day, you may vote at your old precinct one last time by signing an affidavit provided by local election officials. However, the voter may only be given a ballot to vote for president and vice-president.

**Note:** If you knowingly vote in an election or vote by using a fail-safe procedure that you do not qualify for, you are committing a felony and can be fined up to \$10,000, jailed for up to three years, or both.

